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BOYS STATE

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RAFIQ MALEK ELECTED GOVERNOR, APPOINTS CABINET

Rafiq Malek, an independent from Summitt City, won the governor's seat in the general election held Wednesday at Boys State.

This morning, Malek announced his cabinet appointments: Walt Heatherly, Agriculture; Elson Parlow, Children's Services; Malik Webster, Commerce and Insurance; Jameson Rigsby, Correction; Elijah Leskinen, Economic and Community Development; Alexander Hale, Education; Bryce Hannah, Environment and Conservation; William Baker, Finance and Administration; Nick Rodgers, Financial Institutions; De'Marquise Lockridge, General Services; David Wilson, Health; Logan Houston, Health Care Finance and Administration; Chris Hargove, Human Resources; Dalton Sellers, Human Services; Krishna Patel, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Brad Parton, Labor and Workforce Development; Tyler Baker, Mental Health; Ethan Jones, Revenue; Carter Stamps, Safety and Homeland Security; Gregory Mabry, Tourist Development; Zach Wimsatt, Transportation; and Hayden Campbell, Veterans Affairs.

Governor-elect Malek also announced the following appointments: Samuel Sullivan, adjutant general; Thomas Levi, chief of staff; Fletcher Moore, communication director; Kent Sapp, chief operating officer; Ovi Kabir, counsel to the governor; Andrew Brown, director of legislation.

STATE ELECTION RESULTS

Supreme Court

Travis Bass, Ryan Burgess, Mason Hilliard, Levi Johnson, Vincent Mancuso

Court of Appeals

Jacob Bumpas, Allen Childers, Jakob Couser, Emery Duke, Josiah Fox, Nicholas Melton, Peter Minneci, Max Neveau, Brady O'Brien, Zachary Parker, Holden Shelton, Paul Trentham

Court of Criminal Appeals

Zachary Abdo, Andrew Bumpas, Zackery Crum, Allen Davis, Jesse Ginn, Welsey Good, Justin Jones, Samuel Pate, Andrew Reed, John Sewell II, Myles Smith, Samuel Wauford

Fittest Man on Earth Visits Boys State

Rich Froning, three-time CrossFit champion, fielded questions from delegates Wednesday evening. Froning participated in Boys State 10 years ago and returned to give advice on how to avoid being mediocre.

"We've got a problem. People are lazy," said Froning. "Our job as leaders is not let people get away with mediocre. Work hard. Don't be afraid to fail.

"Don't put your identity in anything worldly," he advised. "It will let you down."

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNOR

Rafiq Malek beat the odds by becoming Boys State governor-elect as an independent candidate. However, his key to a successful campaign can be found in his advice to future Boys State delegates.

“Come and identify yourself as someone who is outgoing, friendly and respectable,” Malek said.

Malek, son of Cathy and Navil Malek, attends Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts, where he majors in acting. He is pursuing an Eagle Scout rank.

Like many delegates, Malek did not know what to expect from the week or the demands on candidates. He says he found campaign momentum was key.

“I think people fall into following the majority,” he explained. “Once you have a big enough following, I think there is a peer pressure that is very advantageous.”

The governor-elect says he will work toward adding more sports, particularly soccer, to the week’s activities. But Malek’s main focus is on exploring ways to lower the cost of attendance to Boys State.

“We need to allow more people access to Boys State,” he said. “Some students have the cost covered by others, but some don’t get to participate because of the cost.”

After high school graduation, Malek is considering applying to the nation’s military academies and says he has multiple options on the table for the future.

His lasting impression of the week will be of the delegates whom he admires.

“I’m impressed by the amount of competitive people who strive to do as much as they can,” he said.

Malek will be inaugurated on Saturday in Tennessee Tech University’s Hooper Eblen Center. U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander will be the main speaker. Logan Parsons of Crossville is the outgoing 2013 Tennessee Boys’ State governor.

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Tennessee Tech University is proud to host Tennessee Boys’ State for the past 50 years. The university is consistently ranked one of “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” plus offers six of Payscale.com’s Top 10 college majors that lead to high salaries. TTU students have the highest mid-career median salary potential of any public university graduates in the state. Graduates also have the least debt in the South, according to U.S. News & World Report. More than half of TTU’s 2011 graduates left school debt free.

